

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2010; 4:30p.m.
Council Chambers**

PRESENT	ABSENT
Trena Carter	Akua B. Agyei
Ian Kohen	Shiva Rallapalli
Greg Lewis	John Roberts
Tony McClendon	
Gil Palmer	
Rosalind Pegram	
John Stroh	

Meeting Called to Order

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Arlette Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith and Secretary Lula Young.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley requested any corrections or amendments to the November 2009 and January 2010 minutes.

Commissioner Stroh moved to accept the November 2009 minutes and January 2010 minutes as submitted. Commissioner Kohen seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley reported the Donations Account beginning balance as \$6,944.80, with an expenditure of \$100.00 for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Day advertisement, leaving the Donations account balance as \$6844.80 as of February 24, 2010.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chairperson Palmer reported that he had attended the Kenyettā Dance Troupe presentation co-sponsored by the 'Granny Connection' and the NAACP. He informed Commissioners that the Granny Connection is a local organization providing financial support to grandmothers in Africa who are raising their grandchildren whose parents had died of the AIDS virus. He continued by advising that the event had a large turnout with almost 300 people in attendance.

The Chairperson advised that he had also attended the showing of Journey in Film movie 'Beat the Drum' at Yes Cinema. The movie, sponsored by CAMEO, ISC and a reception hosted by the CAAAG with the Storyteller's Drums performance before the film. He continued by commenting on the increased number of activities now taking place during February for Black History Month. Discussion highlighting upcoming events and the increased level of collaboration by local organizations hosting events ensued.

Chairperson Palmer announced that the inaugural meeting and introduction to the community of the Columbus Latin American Association (CLAA) will be held on March 11th at City Hall.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley thanked Commissioner John Stroh for the successful mediation of two sex in employment discrimination complaints mediated simultaneously. She went on to inform Commissioners that had the complaints not been mediated, a minimum of two additional complaints of retaliation were prepared for filing.

Director Tinsley reported that staff was moving forward with preparations for the annual dinner and essay contest. She also advised that she would be providing training to Human Resources personnel in Noblesville and voiced her appreciation of Commissioner Roberts covering several public speaking engagements.

The Director advised that elections for executive officers would take place at the March full commission meeting. She informed commissioners that Priscilla Scaf, council liaison, was scheduling interviews of several candidates for the open commissioner position. She went on to prepare Commissioners of the potential that City Council may limit the number of terms a Commissioner may serve and advised them of past communications with the Council. Discussion ensued.

ACTION ITEM – District 6 We have DREAM Resolution:

Director Tinsley provided Commissioners an overview of the Resolution supporting the Dream Act prepared as requested by the District 6 We have a DREAM committee. She advised that the Committee plans to utilize the Resolution when seeking support from other local organizations and businesses. Discussion ensued. Commissioners requested specific edits and data addition to the Resolution.

Commissioner Kohen moved to accept the DREAM Act resolution with requested edits. Commissioner Lewis seconded. Motion carried unanimously

OTHER BUSINESS – LAWS AWARD SELECTION PROCESS :

Director Tinsley announced the members of the Laws award nomination committee as Commissioners McClendon, Kohen and Roberts. She informed Commissioners that a copy of the press release requesting nominations would be sent to Commissioners in addition along with the criteria and guidelines. She also reminded Commissioners that the Laws recipient could be selected from the Committee's recommendation, community nominations, commissioner nominations or no recipient selected at all.

OTHER BUSINESS –CAMEO UPDATE:

Director Tinsley advised that Commissioner Agyei is out of the country and that she will update Commissioners about the CAMEO liaison position at a later date.

Deputy Director Smith announced the date for CAMEO's annual meeting as April 14th, to be held in the Columbus Learning Center auditorium and requested Commissioners save the date.

OTHER BUSINESS – ESSAY CONTEST & ANNUAL DINNER:

Director Tinsley announced that contest entries were up with a large increase in the number of high school essays received. She thanked Commissioner Lewis for his support and communication with local teachers that helped to increase the number of entries.

Both the Deputy Director and Director informed Commissioners that they were impressed with the high quality of the artwork entries and the plan to display the entries during the annual dinner.

Director Tinsley informed Commissioners that after many unsuccessful attempts to communicate with one potential keynote speaker, staff had approached a second speaker from the Commissioner's previously composed speaker list. The Director announced that Cheryl Owsley Jackson, freelance report with CNN and Columbus native had agreed to be the keynote speaker for the 2010 annual dinner.

LIAISON UPDATE – INTERFAITH FORUM COMMISSION:

Commissioner Lewis reported that IFC is looking to diversify the different faiths represented and increase participation in IFC. He informed Commissioners that IFC hosts two sacred celebrations annually and that Islam will be the observed faith of the May celebration. He then stated that his recent attendance at a CAMEO meeting provided him the opportunity to speak to a couple of members of CAMEO's Middle East Association, Kenan Al Hussein and Yasir Bhatti, about the celebration. Commissioner Lewis reported that he hopes to have the support of the Middle East Association for the May celebration and that he will be facilitating the next IFC meeting scheduled in March.

LIAISON UPDATES – PRIDE ALLIANCE COLUMBUS :

No report.

LIAISON UPDATES – INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY COALITION:

Commissioner Stroh announced the ICC presentation featuring Chris Clark as the keynote speaker, will be on March 29th with North Christian church as a potential location. He advised that the history of the Marriage Equality Act of Iowa would be discussed.

Commissioner Stroh also informed Commissioners business card-sized ads would be sold to local businesses to aid in offsetting the cost of the program. Director Tinsley stated that the Commission could place an ad.

LIAISON UPDATE – IMMIGRATION ISSUES GROUP (IIG):

Commissioner Pegram reported that Census representatives attended the last IIG meeting and made a presentation about the importance of completing Census forms but unfortunately, they did not have any Spanish resources listed on their posters nor did they leave any posters with them. She went on to inform Commissioners of a push within the Latino community to not participate in the Census as a protest about immigration issues. She also advised that there are those in the Latino community that are supporting participation in the census count.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Kohen moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Carter seconded. Meeting adjourned.